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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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29 February 1968

Soviets Attack Mao at Budapest Preparatory Meeting

Mikhail Suslov, the Soviet delegation head at the Budapest meeting, yesterday leveled a blast of invective at Mao Tse-Tung's "slander campaign" against the meeting. The Soviet attack which was supported by the Poles and East Germans, will be seen as another breach of faith by some parties--the Italian, French and Rumanian parties at least--which were assured before the meeting that there would be no condemnation of the Chinese.

The daily pressures to display pro-Soviet attitudes is beginning to take its toll on the meeting's decorum. Yesterday tempers flared in at least one instance when Rumanian delegation head Paul Niculescu-Mizil demanded that the Syrian CP Secretary General Khaled Bagdash retract a charge of chauvinism made against Rumania.

The meeting produced one firm display of unity yesterday in the form of a message to the Viet Cong which expressed the delegates solidarity and demanded an end to the bombing on NFLSV terms.

Times Journalist Visits Eastern Europe

Harry Schwartz of the New York Times arrived in Budapest on 28 February on the first leg of a tour through Eastern Europe. He is scheduled to arrive in Prague on 5 March, Bucharest on 9 March, Sofia on 12 March, and Belgrade on 15 March, according to an itinerary submitted to USIA.

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COMMENT: Schwartz undoubtedly intends to take soundings at the Budapest consultative meeting which he will follow up with first hand observations of maverick Yugoslavia, Rumania and the near-heretics in Prague. The visit to Sofia will introduce a note of sobriety into this otherwise heady atmosphere.

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Limited Emigration of Bulgaria's Turkish Minority to Begin in April

An agreement was initialed in Ankara on 24 February determining the qualifications for Bulgarians of Turkish origin to emigrate to Turkey. Only those who have close relatives that immigrated to Turkey prior to 1952 will be allowed to participate in the emigration which will take place between April and November. A close relative is defined as wife, husband, mother, father unmarried brothers and sisters, grandparents and great-grandparents. Turkish embassy estimates of potential emigres range from ten to thirty thousand with the lower figure the odds-on favorite.

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COMMENT: The agreement probably will be formalized during the visit of Bulgarian party chief and Premier, Todor Zhivkov who is scheduled to arrive in Turkey on 20 March. The solution of this long-discussed and often-delayed problem will greatly benefit the prospects for improved bilateral relations.

Gomulka to Visit France in September

Party boss Gomulka is being invited to visit Paris sometime in September, according to the French Ambassador in Warsaw.

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COMMENT: Gomulka's trip would be in return for, and come on the anniversary of, De Gaulle's state visit to Poland in September 1967. It was rumored as long as two years ago that Gomulka wanted to visit France, but the French reportedly wanted De Gaulle to go to Poland first.

The first and so far only visit to Paris by an Eastern European party boss was that of Bulgaria's Zhivkov in October 1966; he travelled, however, in his other capacity of Premier. Gomulka's governmental positions--member of the State Council and parliamentary deputy--are not weighty enough to allow him to travel in any but his party capacity.

U.S. Defector Appears on Yugoslav T.V.

Tihomir Momirovic, a U.S. Army corporal who deserted to Yugoslavia earlier this year, appeared in full uniform on a Yugoslav television program for the purpose of expressing his opposition to the American war effort in Vietnam.

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COMMENT: Apparently the Yugoslavs plan to get full propaganda play out of Momirovic's defection, and in addition to the T.V. appearance, Vercernje Novosti (a Belgrade tabloid) plans to run a series of articles on the U.S. defector and Vietnam.

Momirovic served near the Cambodian border and had been in Vietnam six months when he was granted emergency leave to visit his ill mother in Belgrade. According to his own statements, Momirovic deserted because of the "proximity of danger and death on the battlefield" and complained that U.S. servicemen--in contrast to the training given the Viet Cong--are not told why they are fighting. He now plans to set up an orchestra and tour the Adriatic coast.

West Berlin Mayor To Propose New Pass Negotiations

West Berlin Governing Mayor Klaus Schuetz informed the Allied Commandants on 28 February that he plans to send a letter to GDR Premier Stoph proposing discussions between the Senat and the East Germans for Easter wall passes. Schuetz stated that if such passes are to be arranged, technical discussions must begin by March 11. He further

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explained that he believed it is important for the West Berlin government to make some sort of move on passes, at least for the record. Schuetz did not appear to be sanguine that his initiative would meet with any success.

The US Mission in Berlin commented that a senior Senat official informed the Allies that Schuetz has consulted with the Bonn government regarding his proposed letter.

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COMMENT: The new aspect of this story is that Schuetz plans to write directly to GDR Premier Stoph. Previous West Berlin communications have been sent to deputy premier Abusch or lower-level functionaries. In responding, the East Germans may note that Schuetz and the Senat have become more "realistic" by addressing Stoph, but the remainder of their reply undoubtedly will be negative.

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